

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 2 MARCH 2003

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs to news@sarl.org.za not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

In the news today:

NEW ZS DISTANCE RECORD IN THE 6 cm / 5760 MHz BAND.

THE IRS CREW WILL RETURN WITH A RUSSIAN SOYUZ SPACE CRAFT
PIONEER 10 SPACECRAFT SENDS LAST SIGNAL

CRICKET WORLD CUP SPECIAL EVENT STATION

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Website or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from nine to thirteen hours (09:00 to 13:00) at 0(zero)11-675-2393 for details on how to join the SARL, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SILENT KEY

Edward (Ted) Bilson (ZS6TG), passed away on Friday the 14th of February, just 2 days prior to his 79th birthday.

Ted was an active amateur radio operator since 1947 and is survived by his wife Pam, two sons, Michael and Kevin and two daughters Gillian and Sandy.

To his family and friends, our sincere condolences.

PAUSE

The news follows in detail:

NEW ZS DISTANCE RECORD IN THE 6 cm / 5760 MHz BAND.

On Thursday 27 February at 09:30 SAST ZS6AXT and ZS6JON/P established a new South African distance record of 151 km in the 5760 MHz band between KG44VV and KG45ED locations. Signals were on SSB with reports 51 for ZS6JON/P and 55 for ZS6AXT. Tests on 300 and 220 km distances were negative.

The portable equipment was slightly improved against previous tests by use of a large horn, which provided extra 10 dB gain. Otherwise the output power was still only 400 mW which is approximately the power of a battery torch. Those 10 dBs of antenna gain made unreadable signals as in the previous test, perfectly readable.

The next step will be an increase in the transmitter power and a bit more antenna gain to improve the distance. The above shows what can be achieved on these microwave bands with real flea power.

THE IRS CREW WILL RETURN WITH A RUSSIAN SOYUZ SPACE CRAFT

The all-ham crew aboard the International Space Station will return to Earth in early May via the Russian Soyuz escape vehicle. Appearing before the US House Science Committee February 27, NASA Chief Sean O'Keefe said that the 16 ISS partner countries have agreed to use the Russian capsule to ferry a new two-person crew to the station—one American and one Russian—and to bring the current three-man crew home. The shuttle fleet remains grounded in the wake of the Columbia tragedy.

PIONEER 10 SPACECRAFT SENDS LAST SIGNAL (from the SABC news page)

After more than 30 years, it appears the venerable Pioneer 10 spacecraft has sent its last signal to Earth. Pioneer's last, very weak signal was received on January 22, 2003.

NASA engineers report Pioneer 10's radioisotope power source has decayed, and it may not have enough power to send additional transmissions to Earth. NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN) did not detect a signal during the last contact attempt on February 7, 2003.

The previous three contacts, including the January 22 signal, were very faint with no telemetry received. The last time a Pioneer 10 contact returned telemetry data was April 27, 2002. NASA has no additional contact attempts planned for Pioneer 10.

"Pioneer 10 was a pioneer in the true sense of the word. After it passed Mars on its long journey into deep space, it was venturing into places where nothing built by humanity had ever gone before," said Dr. Colleen Hartman, director of NASA's Solar System Exploration Division, NASA Headquarters, Washington. "It ranks among the most historic as well as the most scientifically rich exploration missions ever undertaken," she said.

"Originally designed for a 21-month mission, Pioneer 10 lasted more than 30 years. It was a workhorse that far exceeded its warranty, and I guess you could say we got our money's worth," said Pioneer 10 Project Manager, Dr. Larry Lasher.

CRICKET WORLD CUP SPECIAL EVENT STATION

Remember to make an effort to contact the special event station, ZS03CWC which is being operated by the Oakdale Club on all bands from 80m to 10m until the 23rd March.

ZS stations can send QSL's to ZS03CWC, PO BOX 2132, BELLVILLE, 7535 and DX stations can send it to ZS1AU on QRZ.COM. Please include a self addressed stamped envelope for a special QSL card which will be available after the 23rd March.

MEGA FLEAMARKET IN PRETORIA

All the amateur radio clubs in Pretoria will be hosting a joint fleamarket on Saturday 8 March 2002. The fleamarket will be held at the usual place on the South Campus of the University of Pretoria, at the corner of University and Lynwood roads. The starting time is 09:00.

Everyone, club members and non club members, is welcome to attend. Come and visit this Mega Fleamarket in Pretoria. Phone Almero ZR6RY on (H)(012) 567 3722 or 082 908 3359 if you want to book a table or if you need more details about the fleamarket.

CLUB NEWS

The Sunday SARL Broadcast is relayed each Sunday on the South Coast Repeater on 145.775 MHz by ZS5ZT for the Hibiscus Coast Amateur Radio Club, ZS5HAC.

40 Meter signals are extremely good at 08:30.

SALE OF EQUIPMENT

Radio amateurs are reminded that when they sell radio transmitting equipment, they must ensure that the buyer is in fact licensed to operate the equipment. Do not sell equipment to just any person.

FREQUENCY AND TIME CHANGES FOR ARMI

From 30 March the Amateur Radio Mirror International frequency of 21560 kHz will be replaced by 17815 kHz. From March 31 the Monday transmission will move one hour later to 21:00 CAT but will continue using the 3215 kHz frequency.

This bulletin was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN and read byfrom as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21560, 9750, and 7082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban and 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 20:00 CAT on 3215 kHz. ARMI is sponsored by Telkom and Sentech.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX

===== Message Ends =====

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